Dear Peter, 1/6/75

Thanks for your notes. The book herewith. I do hope you reflect how I'll feel about yours. So you can understand Robert better, and this in confidence because I do not want to offend him, a little story. I knew about the dispute between you and that it was about some Z aspect, so I could guess what. I also knew that mutual friends had urged Robert to speak to me about it and he had refused. When he had a face-saving formula he did. If you and he wind up with what I suggested you'll be inside the ballpark. He agreed to it when we spoke, after you had him call me. It is important to understand the kind of person Robert is and the kind of problems he has. He is not, unlike most of the rest of the pack, a bad fellow at all. Rather is he off on an unrecognized ego trip for which he is ill-prepared and ill-suited. I don't think it is a bit worse and I do hope that it will be satisfied by the appearance of the book and he can and will return to a productive life with his fine family.

On the Oui thing, I've merely spoken to Lesar about it. It is false and defamatory at the least as it relates to Bud. I've forgotten the rest. If I have to I'll look it up. But I did raise the questions with Shales in advance and with someone who called me from Oui about something else. This is how I knew the piece was in their legal department. I then told this person that the lawyers should be very careful because after my first conversation with Shales something entirely different than he first spoke to me about took shape in my mind.

So, I phoned him and asked him, you called me about a story about me and you asked me nothing about myself. His response was that he had what he wanted. I cautioned him that he had no independent way of knowing who would be truthful, who had hatred of others, who was jealous, who a creature of promotions and nothing else, and that he could wind up with a very bad business.

This is what happened. He took all the guys who hate me because of what they have done to me - literally - and quoted them unquestioningly. Lane has been a crook from the first. For years I maintained a public silence about this in which he was far from alone. The in April at a NYU speech I warned them all of the changed situation and the responsibility we all owed to Congress and the consequences of a few of the examples I cited, mostly without names. He was recognizable. It would have made no difference because he realizes we can't co-exist because he is a fraud and a commercializer.

In any event, when you speak to Catchpole you might remind that Oui and Shales were both on notice. There was a similar adventure by Bud in this past Sunday's Potomac section of the WxPost. At some point this is going to have to be confronted directly. Perhaps the time is now. I have written Bud a very tough letter. Earlier, when word that Lane was threatening to sue me got back to me, I wrote the first of his people to write me that if I heard this once more I'd put him in a position where he'd have little choice by writing him a letter that would be actionable if it were not true. I did and I sent it certified. If in time there is no response I'll start circulating it among those he is misleading, meaning in the Congress.

What Oui did was worse than dumb. It is defamatory at a time when I have a new book out and they were on notice. Besides, they obviously did no checking at all. So while I don't know the law in its details perhaps the time has come to find out. These wretched people, from the rip-off artists to the self-promoters and self-seekers are leaving little alternative and are destroying the possibilities of the Congress cleaning up after the assassinations. They are in fact, playing the game of the executive agencies, which I can prove with little difficulty. I wish I knew who would pay enough for such a story. Before any of this recent stuff I had given serious thought, once I'm better, to a book of this sory that I'd started. I'd already written one on Lane alone when what he was then up to presented the possibilities of hurt to us all...You will remember that I told you I had had to recast myself into the role of the man who would make the record for the future. Well, I have t e record- the proofs with them all. If nothing substantial comes out of the Congress I'll do it. Thanks and best regards,